

EPA REGION III

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Wednesday, July 11, 2012

***** PM HOT LIST *****

New study monitors W. Pa. fracking fluid

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.) PITTSBURGH (AP) — A new study being done by the Department of Energy may provide some of the first solid answers to an extremely controversial question — whether gas drilling fluids migrate and pose a threat to drinking water. DOE spokesman Richard Hammack says a gas drilling company in southwestern Pennsylvania has let researchers add tracing compounds to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking fluids. Hammack says researchers will now be able to monitor whether the drilling fluids move upwards or sideways from the well bottom, which is 8,100 feet deep. Environmentalists have claimed the fluids associated with drilling could rise and pollute shallow drinking water aquifers. The industry and many state and federal officials say the practice is safe when done properly, but there have also been cases where faulty wells did cause pollution.

Don't Drink the Water: Fracking Fluid Likely in PA Drinking Water

CARE2 Live in Pennsylvania? Live near a fracking well? If so, the chances of finding fracking fluid seeping into your drinking water — a major concern that's been touted by environmental groups and independent researchers for years — may be more likely than previously thought. Scientists at Duke University and California State Polytechnic University at Pomona found that water from wells and aquifers in **Northeastern Pennsylvania** contained traces of brine from the Marcellus Shale, the shale deposit found in the northern Appalachian region of North America and the deposit popularly cited for domestic fracking operations. Brine, a naturally occurring substance, is acting as an indicator to a disturbing fact: previously thought to be “contained” underground chemicals may not be so contained after all. In fact, these same chemicals could be seeping toward the surface and into our drinking water supply much more easily and frequently than predicted. While no specific fracking chemicals were detected in this study, the mere thought that chemicals can move freely through underground rock layers more so than previously believed is very alarming. The findings also contradict the notion typically upheld by vested interests, predominately composed of oil and gas companies, that rock formations deep within the Earth will securely seal in material injected thousands of feet underground, whether through underground disposal or drilling. However, matter can't just disappear and will inevitably end up somewhere down the line.

Cornell researcher rebuts colleagues on fracking leaks

FUELFIX Replacing coal with natural gas cuts the creation of greenhouse gases that cause global warming, a Cornell University researcher has concluded, rebutting the findings of colleagues at the university. Lawrence M. Cathles, a professor in the department of earth and atmospheric sciences, released a paper that says even if high

rates of natural gas are leaking out after hydraulic fracturing and during transport, gas will still provide a net benefit over time. “The only thing that really counts is the amount of carbon dioxide you put in the atmosphere,” Cathles said in an interview today. Because gas releases less carbon dioxide than coal or oil when combusted, “the story is quite clear that we would be very well advised to substitute natural gas.” The impact of natural gas on climate change has attracted attention as the spurt in production from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has pushed down prices and prompted power producers to shift from coal to gas.

No Marcellus shale gas boom for Scranton Pennsylvania

EXAMINER.COM (yesterday) Today, with shale gas drilling booming in 3 nearby counties, the mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania and all city employees remain on minimum wages of \$7.25 an hour as the city struggles with an estimated \$17 million budget shortfall. The mayor, blocked by his city council from raising taxes now finds even though his city is near the state’s epicenter of shale gas operations, the state’s new impact fee formula does not allow Scranton to directly access any of these new found revenues. Scranton’s current budget stands at \$78 million per year. Based on how the new Act 13 impact fee formula works, new state fees levied on shale gas drillers primarily go to those counties which ‘host’ drilling wells. Not lucky enough to be sitting on its own shale gas reserves, Scranton now finds itself on the outside looking in as 3 of its neighboring counties of Bradford, Susquehanna and Tioga are all getting ready to receive millions in new found shale gas impact fees on top of an already rich flow of shale gas companies land lease royalty payments due to the intense industry drilling in those counties.

Town Meeting Set for Proposed Disposal Injection Well

GANT DAILY CLEARFIELD – During the public comment session Tuesday, DuBois resident Marianne Atkinson updated the Clearfield County Commissioners about the status of a proposed disposal injection well off Highland Street Extension in Brady Township. Windfall Oil and Gas of Falls Creek has proposed the well for disposing wastewater from hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus shale natural gas drilling operations. Atkinson opposes the construction of the disposal injection well, as it would be located only two miles from city limits and could contaminate residents’ water. Atkinson recently contacted the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which confirmed Windfall Oil and Gas had submitted an application for its proposed construction of the disposal injection well. Both the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal EPA must grant permits for the disposal injection well. Atkinson said a town meeting will be held Monday, July 23 for elected officials and residents to convene and publicly discuss the proposed disposal injection well. She said State Reps. Camille “Bud” George, D-74 of Houtzdale and Matt Gabler, R-75 of DuBois, were invited to the meeting.

Fracking Disclosure Policies Fail to Protect Public Health and Safety

OMB WATCH State oversight laws requiring disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing (commonly referred to as fracking) are in need of an overhaul. A new OMB Watch report, *The Right to Know, the Responsibility to Protect: State Actions Are Inadequate to Ensure Effective Disclosure of the Chemicals Used in Natural Gas Fracking*, examines state chemical disclosure rules and aims to empower the public. It also encourages state and local authorities to improve their chemical disclosure standards, especially in those regions of the country most involved in and affected by natural gas fracking.... In most cases, the Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate the injection of fluids underground and limit pollution levels in drinking water. However, the 2005 Energy Policy Act stripped the EPA of its authority to monitor fracking, making it the only industry to benefit from such an exemption. With the absence of federal regulation and as citizen pressure for new protections and greater oversight mounts, more state governments are establishing rules requiring disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking and better monitoring of their potential impacts on local water supplies and public health. Unfortunately, none of the current state efforts sufficiently addresses all of the key elements needed for effective oversight

Hearing on Limerick nuke plant using more river water set for Aug. 28

POTTSTOWN MERCURY POTTSTOWN — It may not be the trial of the century, but it may be the longest trial in a century. Eight years after announcing a public hearing would be held in the Pottstown area regarding Exelon's "trial" project that puts water from a closed coal mine into the Schuylkill River to allow the withdrawal of additional river water downstream, **a date for the hearing** has finally been set. On Aug. 28, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will hold a three-hour public hearing at the Sunnybrook Ballroom regarding the "demonstration project." Written public comments on the proposal will be accepted through Oct. 27. **The DRBC has proposed** approving an increase in the amount of water withdrawn from the Schuylkill by two million gallons — up to 58.2 million gallons. In addition to withdrawals, the decision up for review and comment would renew the state DEP's approval for continued discharge of "cooling tower blowdown, treated process wastewater and stormwater into the Schuylkill and Possum Hollow Run through various outfalls."

Easton, Cambridge get green grants

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT EASTON Easton is one of four localities in Maryland set to get green infrastructure grants intended to help with pollution reduction efforts, federal officials announced Monday. Lisa Jackson, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and outgoing chairwoman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, made the announcement at Monday's annual executive council meeting held in Virginia. The announcement included technical assistance for 14 local governments across the Bay watershed. The funding helps local governments make infrastructure changes that improve nearby water quality. Easton is slated to get a \$100,000 grant to develop tools and strategies to implement a community forestry program. That program would increase the town's tree canopy, with a focus on stream corridors and converting turf to trees. Cambridge, in Dorchester County, also is a recipient, with a \$150,000 grant for the revitalization of two main thoroughfares that intersect with U.S. Route 50 and serve as main streets. The project also would identify priority opportunities for stormwater retrofits throughout the city. Prince George's County and Havre de Grace are the other two grant recipients announced Monday. U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski, both D-MD., lauded the announcement.

Herbicide-resistant weeds mean harsher chemicals

CAPE GAZETTE Scientists develop corn to withstand Agent Orange chemical. Delmarva weed scientist Dr. Raymond Forney carries a photo of African children working in a cornfield. Forney points to a weed in the frame of the photo — it's pigweed — the same herbicide-resistant weed plaguing farmers across the United States. Forney has been studying weeds for most of his life starting when he was a farmer in Delaware. In 2000, he and University of Delaware researcher Mark VanGessel worked on the first recorded glyphosate-resistant weeds — first discovered in a farm field in Delaware. Forney said pigweed and other herbicide-resistant weeds exist wherever there is agriculture in the world. In order to protect their livelihoods, farmers had to go with the best science available, which meant using harsher herbicides on their fields. To combat pigweed and marestalk, some farmers have now turned to 2,4-D, a component of Agent Orange developed during the Vietnam War to decimate the jungles of Southeast Asia. Now some consumers and environmentalists say using such a harsh chemical on fields where it could leech into drinking water or could pose health risks. Forney said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regularly studies 2,4-D and other chemicals used in agriculture. "The EPA continues to find that 2,4-D has a reasonable safety profile to humans and the environment," Forney said. "That's the best science that this country has to offer."

EPA Official Says Implementation Questions To Remain Even if Cross-State Rule Upheld

BLOOMBERG NEWS The Environmental Protection Agency's top air official said July 10 that, even if a federal appeals court upholds the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, questions will remain about how to implement the

program that never went into effect on the planned start date. Observers are expecting the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to issue a ruling any day now on the legality of the cross-state rule, which requires 28 states to reduce power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide that cross state lines (*EME Homer City Generation L.P. v. EPA*, D.C. Cir., No. 11-1302, *oral arguments* 4/13/12; 72 DER A-14, 4/16/12). “We feel pretty confident that rule will be upheld,” Gina McCarthy, EPA assistant administrator for air and radiation, said at a conference of state energy and environmental officials. “When that happens, we’ll be talking about 'What do we do now?' How do we get that restarted?” Just days before the Jan. 1 compliance date, the D.C. Circuit stayed the rule, and now that the year is half over, observers do not expect the rule to be implemented in 2012. A second compliance period was set to begin in 2014, and questions also remain about the feasibility of that deadline.

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Editorial: Committing to Bay restoration

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT Progress in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, detailed Monday by state and federal officials and environmentalists, was good news for the 17 million people who live in its watershed or enjoy oysters, crabs or fish from its waters. Half of Virginia drains into rivers flowing into the Chesapeake, so it's a particularly welcome sign that the state significantly cut nitrogen pollution, phosphorus and bacteria loads that come from wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, septic tanks and farmland. As The Pilot's Debbie Messina reported, the Environmental Protection Agency named Virginia the "Biggest Loser" for preventing 2.5 million pounds of nitrogen from entering waterways. But high-fives and celebrations over two years in a multi-decade effort are premature. The goal by 2025 is to reduce pollution in the bay by another 50 percent, and as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation reminds us, the history of bay restoration is "full of long-term goals set - then missed." The foundation, the EPA and others have attempted to nudge six states and Washington, D.C., to improve sewage treatment systems and curb urban runoff, as well as encourage the agricultural industry to plant cover crops, keep livestock out of streams and increase vegetation along stream banks to reduce runoff.... Restoring the 64,000-square-mile watershed to health will require more commitment from property owners, businesses, farmers and communities. It will require more money, too. It will take help from Congress and the states, strict oversight and accountability by the EPA, diligence by cities to modernize treatment plants and continued positive reports every two years to get there..

Editorial: Chesapeake Bay: Improvement

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH Efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay have not always paid the dividends that defenders of natural resources would hope. Numerous reasons account for that, from the complexity of the problem itself to the herding-cats difficulty of getting every jurisdiction in the watershed pulling in the same direction at the same time. Nevertheless, hard work can pay off over time, and it seems to be doing so in this case. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other groups, Virginia has hit six of nine benchmarks for restoring the estuary. This is good news. But it is far from sufficient. Earlier this year, the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science gave the Bay's health a grade of D-plus. Even if you partly discount the low grade because of factors beyond human control, such as flooding from Tropical Storm Lee and algae blooms exacerbated by a hot summer, it is still nothing to write home about. Improving the health of the Bay is an exercise in diminishing marginal returns. Restoring the Bay to its condition before the arrival of colonists at Jamestown by removing the last microgram of pollution would cost untold billions that could do more environmental good elsewhere. But neither Virginia nor the other states in the watershed are anywhere near that point yet. The latest news means they should give themselves a pat on the back — then get back to work.

EPA plans to remove tainted soil

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES Concerned about health hazards, Doylestown residents and business owners flocked to a Tuesday night meeting to hear proposed plans for cleaning up soil at a Broad Street property contaminated with industrial chemicals that can cause everything from lung cancer to liver damage. What they learned was that the Environmental Protection Agency's preferred clean-up plan involves excavating approximately 3,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the former Chem-Fab plant and trucking the waste to disposal facilities. "It's the most long term and permanent solution to addressing contamination," said Huu Ngo, the EPA remedial project manager leading the mitigation effort. Federal funds would pay for the estimated \$2.25 million dollar project, though EPA officials noted the funding must still be applied for. Ngo said EPA officials considered a \$1 million alternative plan that involves placing a low permeability cap over contaminated soils, thereby preventing rainwater from driving contaminants down into groundwater. However, experts determined that option wasn't as good a solution as removing the most contaminated soil, which lies outside the footprint of buildings currently on site. In response to residents' questions, Ngo said there is no firm timeline for when remediation would begin. He said the design phase could take six months to a year — and possibly longer than that if unforeseen complications arise. Once project design is complete, officials would have to apply for the funding from the federal government.

US House to take up 2012 Farm Bill on Wednesday

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS The U.S. House of Representatives' agriculture committee will begin debating the 2012 Farm Bill – the blueprint for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's spending for the next five years – on Wednesday. In June, the Senate adopted a five-year, \$500 trillion farm bill that is approximately \$23 billion less than the 2008 Farm Bill. Nearly 70 percent of the bill's funding will go to nutrition programs, such as food stamps. The Senate's version consolidated 23 conservation programs into 13 and reduced conservation funding by 10 percent, to \$49 billion, and lawmakers preserved funding for cost-sharing programs designed to help farmers control the chemical runoff from fertilizer, manure or sediment, said Doug Siglin, federal affairs director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The foundation estimates that 44 percent of the pollutants in the bay come from agricultural runoff. Part of the conservation funds would be provide farmers who take steps to prevent runoff – such as installing fencing around streams used by livestock or planting cover crops to reduce erosion – with grants to cover 50 to 75 percent of the costs, Siglin said. Both the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Virginia Farm Bureau publicly supported the Senate's passage of the 2012 Farm Bill. Local farmers said they will be too busy working on Wednesday to pay much attention to the House's discussions of the bill, including conservation issues that many farmers consider "unrealistic."

Health of Chesapeake improving partially because of local efforts

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS The James River Green Building Council welcomed Ann B. Jurczyk, the Virginia outreach and advocacy manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to Charlottesville on Tuesday to speak about pollution reduction in the Chesapeake Bay. Jurczyk described ways to help the area meet its goals to improve the health of the bay under what is known as Phase 2 of the Watershed Implementation Plan. In December 2010, the EPA established a "pollution diet" for the Chesapeake Bay. Each state was assigned a Total Maximum Daily Load of pollutants that can be released into the bay. In accordance with WIP Phase 2, localities within the bay watershed have submitted their plans for achieving pollution reductions. This will be done through reducing sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous runoff in local streams and rivers. "Collectively I think we've all got an opportunity to share in some of the [pollution] reductions," Jurczyk said. "If we can clean up locally, eventually the bay will take care of itself but we have to start here, with what goes on in our backyard." Both the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle County have submitted their input for the WIP. Both localities will create an inventory of current best management practices and increase BMP installations. Charlottesville will also conduct stormwater retention retrofits on school and city property and educate the public on the importance of reducing pet waste, among other things. The difference between WIP Phase 2 and plans of the past is that it establishes attainment checkpoints every two years. This will allow localities to track their pollution levels and make adjustments as needed. The state of Virginia is on target to meet its next check in. Jurczyk's presentation

coincided with Gov. Bob McDonnell's Friday news release praising Virginia's efforts in cleaning up the bay. McDonnell congratulated wastewater treatment facilities for reducing the amount of nitrogen they release by more than 2,000 percent. He also acknowledged that in 2011 the EPA recognized Virginia as the mid-Atlantic state with the greatest reduction of bacteria and phosphorus released into rivers and streams. Jurczyk also commended these achievements, partly attributing their success to funding that has allowed farmers and wastewater treatment facilities to install BMPs like facility upgrades and fences to separate livestock from waterways. "Wastewater treatment and agriculture have done a good job," Jurczyk said. "Where we are having a hard time keeping up with pollutants, where we are going backward, is stormwater."

Hereford groundwater treatment facility ready to start operating

READING EAGLE-TIMES Donna Kramer was in her late 20s and healthy when she moved into her home along Dale Road in Hereford Township in 1976. By the early 1980s she developed frequent respiratory problems. Doctors had no answers for the illnesses. A few years later, after suspecting a problem with groundwater, Kramer helped persuade the state to test groundwater in the area. The testing and the investigation would lead to the establishment of the Crossley Farm Superfund site less than a mile from her residence. On Tuesday, Kramer drove to the 24-acre site to see the fruits of her efforts from 30 years ago: a newly constructed \$10 million water treatment facility. Kramer, 60, was among a group that included public and environmental officials and other Hereford Township residents at a ribbon-cutting and tour of the facility, which is expected to rid the area's groundwater of trichloroethylene - a carcinogen commonly used as a metal degreaser - within 30 years. The plant will draw water from existing extraction wells, treat the water and then pour it into pits. The plant becomes operational next week. Kramer, who blamed contaminated water for health problems, has a water treatment system and her health problems have dissipated. "I drank it about five or six years before I found it," Kramer said. "I'm hoping it didn't cause any damage or anything. I seem to be healthy." The celebration marked the end of a yearlong construction project but the beginning of up to 12 months of testing, said Roy Schrock, remedial project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Schrock said he will monitor the facility's impact on the nearby Perkiomen Creek and the array of wells and home water-treatment systems in the area. Public and private wells within four miles of the site supply about 4,800 people. "It (the plant) needs to meet the same discharge standards as any wastewater discharge," said Lynn Langer of the state Department of Environmental Protection. After the tour, Schrock said the discharged water could push down the water table. "There is a chance it will affect their wells," he said. "If that happens, I'll have to figure out a new way to provide water or dig a new well." In the 1990s officials traced the contamination to about 1,200 containers of TCE-contaminated liquid waste Bally Case and Cooler dumped at the site in the 1960s and '70s. Levels of TCE have been measured as high as 700,000 micrograms per liter in the groundwater. The drinking water standard allows for 5 micrograms per liter. The treated water will be discharged into one of two 200-foot-long pits - one along Dairy Lane, the other Dale Road - that Schrock likened to French drains. Schrock said the facility will discharge cool water into the Perkiomen Creek. It will create conditions that fish will prefer, he said.

Editorial: Fracking ban is about our water

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER The eleventh-hour surprise decision by Pennsylvania lawmakers to ban natural-gas exploration across a swath of suburban Philadelphia is another sign that the region isn't ready for drilling rigs. It's possible that it never will be. In pushing through a drilling ban across a little-known rock formation in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, State Sen. Charles McIlhinney (R., Bucks) said he wanted to assure that communities were protected while experts evaluate a new report that identifies gas reserves under the two counties. The formation known as the South Newark Basin also reaches across central New Jersey, and a U.S. Geological Survey report in June estimated it may yield 876 billion cubic feet of natural gas. It's not that drillers are clamoring to move into these suburbs, with vastly richer Marcellus Shale gas fields already being tapped from Pittsburgh to the New York border. Indeed, McIlhinney's measure may have more to do with assuaging community anger over state-imposed rules that tie local officials' hands in using zoning to limit drilling. The local ban's most important impact could be that it reinforces a region-wide drilling moratorium put in place by the multistate agency governing the

Delaware River basin. Across a four-state watershed, the drinking water for 15 million people would be imperiled if gas-drilling operations that pump millions of gallons of water, chemicals, and sand deep into the ground should go wrong. Given such high stakes, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) wisely imposed its moratorium more than a year ago while it developed rules under which drilling might be permitted.

Study: Pa. fracking can put water at risk

BLOOMBERG NEWS A study that found hydraulic fracturing for natural gas puts drinking-water supplies in Pennsylvania at risk of contamination may renew a long-running debate between industry and activists. The report by researchers at Duke University, published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said a chemical analysis of 426 shallow groundwater samples found matches with brine found in rock more than one mile deep, suggesting paths that would let gas or water flow up after drilling. While the flows weren't linked to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the study found natural routes for seepage into wells or streams. "The industry has always claimed that this is a separation zone, and there is no way fluids could flow" from the shale to the aquifers, Avner Vengosh, a professor at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and one of the study's eight authors, said. "We see evidence of hydrologic connectivity." Gas drilling by fracking is booming in the Marcellus gas field, mainly in Pennsylvania, with permits issued for more than 11,000 wells mostly in the northeastern counties, such as Bradford and Susquehanna, studied by the scientists. The drilling has been an economic boon for the state and helped drive down natural gas prices nationwide to decade lows. It has also raised fears among citizens and environmental groups about water contamination from the chemical mixture used to break apart the shale or from gas leaking into water wells. The town of Dimock, where some residents say water turned toxic after gas-drilling nearby, is in Susquehanna County. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tested water in Dimock, and found none with unsafe levels of contaminants. "We have not seen any evidence that hydraulic fracturing has contaminated groundwater in Pennsylvania," said Kevin Sunday, a spokesman for Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection. In fracking, water, sand and chemicals are injected into deep shale formations to crack the rock and free trapped gas...

Why don't fed workers work at home?

WASHINGTON POST Teleworking makes sense — dollars and cents. Promoting the ability of federal employees to work from home can reduce government overhead, improve employee work-life balance and allow work to continue when government offices need to close. Yet many who could, don't. It doesn't work for every government gig, but it almost certainly is a good idea for more federal workers than (1) those who are allowed to use it and (2) those who do use it. An Office of Personnel Management (OPM) report on the "Status of Telework in the Federal Government" indicates that 32 percent of federal workers are eligible to telework. Of those, fewer than 25 percent actually teleworked in September. OPM doesn't know how many employees teleworked during the recent period of storms and heat. The Patent and Trademark Office, where nearly two-thirds of employees work from home, has long been in the forefront of teleworking among governmental agencies. "Telework is a well-accepted business strategy and a large part of our culture," said Danette R. Campbell, the agency's senior telework adviser. "Managers realize the positive impact this strategy has on real estate cost-avoidance, production, recruiting and retaining a highly skilled workforce, and continuity of operations."

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

From Early Bird Editorial: Fracking ban is about our water The eleventh-hour surprise decision by Pennsylvania lawmakers to ban natural-gas exploration across a swath of suburban Philadelphia is another sign that the region isn't ready for drilling rigs. It's possible that it never will be. In pushing through a drilling ban across a

little-known rock formation in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, State Sen. Charles McIlhinney (R., Bucks) said he wanted to assure that communities were protected while experts evaluate a new report that identifies gas reserves under the two counties. The formation known as the South Newark Basin also reaches across central New Jersey, and a U.S. Geological Survey report in June estimated it may yield 876 billion cubic feet of natural gas. It's not that drillers are clamoring to move into these suburbs, with vastly richer Marcellus Shale gas fields already being tapped from Pittsburgh to the New York border. Indeed, McIlhinney's measure may have more to do with assuaging community anger over state-imposed rules that tie local officials' hands in using zoning to limit drilling. The local ban's most important impact could be that it reinforces a region-wide drilling moratorium put in place by the multistate agency governing the Delaware River basin. Across a four-state watershed, the drinking water for 15 million people would be imperiled if gas-drilling operations that pump millions of gallons of water, chemicals, and sand deep into the ground should go wrong. Given such high stakes, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) wisely imposed its moratorium more than a year ago while it developed rules under which drilling might be permitted.

From Early Bird Book of the Week: Beth Terry goes "Plastic Free" Beth Terry freely admits that she was an addict. Her substance? Plastic. She ate plastic-wrapped junk food. She drank coffee from disposable cups with plastic lids. She wore high-tech clothing made, at least in part, from plastic. She generated bins full of plastic trash, "But what did I care? I didn't see where it went. It just disappeared to the magic place called 'away.' " That was a long time ago. Since June of 2007, Terry has been engaged in one long, grand experiment to rid her life of plastic. She's chronicled her adventures in a blog, now called My Plastic-free Life. And now we get the book version. Her first two steps, the ones she found made the most difference, were to switch to refillable water bottles and reusable grocery bags. I've written about Terry before, and some readers found her a tad obsessive. She began making homemade mustard, for instance, because she couldn't find any that didn't come in plastic jars. And so much more, all of it detailed in a warm and chatty style in the new book, "Plastic Free: How I Kicked the Plastic Habit and How You Can, Too." Terry started her project mostly for herself. She felt responsible for her own plastic footprint -- the fossil fuel use it entailed, the trash problem it caused, the chemicals that she worried were leaching into herself and her environs from it -- and she wanted to change. The blog brought her views to a wider audience, and now the book serves as a guide to still more. She writes a lot about plastic bottles -- our "drinking problem" -- and plastic bags, and why it's not okay to just recycle it all, and why bioplastics aren't really a better alternative. It's loaded with tips (how to make your own cosmetics, for instance, since most come in plastic) and, as a finale, a chapter titled "Nine Reasons Our Personal Changes Matter."

From Early Bird Blog: Charging Forward: Environment America looks at the electric car In a report released today, the national nonprofit, Environment America, has quantified some of the benefits if more Americans drove electric cars. And, especially, if they charged the cars' batteries with renewable energy instead of the traditional grid mix that includes a lot of coal-fired power. The group cites recent research by the Center for Automotive Research that concludes more than 460,000 U.S. drivers could purchase their first plug-in vehicle within the next three years. If so, says Environment America in its report, Charging Forward: The Emergence of Electric Vehicles and Their Role in Reducing Oil Consumption, these vehicles would reduce our country's fuel use by 111 million gallons per year. And global warming pollution would be reduced by approximately 630,000 metric tons per year. If the plug-in vehicles were powered by clean sources of electricity, these savings would rise to nearly 2 million metric tons annually, the group said.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

From Early Bird Alliance says Pittsburgh saves by spending green Restoration of the hillside below Mount Washington has saved \$175,000 in the cost of topping trees that obscure views. The city saved almost \$700,000 a year in labor thanks to 34,000 volunteer hours. And more than 30,000 street trees spare the city \$330,000 annually in stormwater management services. Members of the Pittsburgh Greenspace Alliance cited these figures during City Council's post-agenda session Tuesday to encourage the city to see that spending on green infrastructure and maintenance "is not a burden but an investment," said Brenda Smith, executive director of the Nine Mile Run

Watershed Association. "If we want the stormwater benefits, these trees have to become mature." The alliance touted the benefits of job creation, erosion control and improvement in public health and housing values. Councilman Corey O'Connor, council's chair for parks and recreation, led the session that Councilman Patrick Dowd and council President Darlene Harris also attended. Representatives of Tree Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the Mount Washington Community Development Corp., the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, Friends of the Riverfront, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Allegheny Commons Initiative formed the alliance to knit their work on infrastructure and green asset strategies so the city can enhance their work. Ms. Smith said tree maintenance "should be a regular function of the city in perpetuity to make the city resilient in the face [of] climate change as well." Mr. Dowd said he wants to see the city move toward a plan to determine how much stormwater each property owner is responsible for and charge them for it. "Anyone who builds a large, flat warehouse is making us pay to help fill up our treatment plant," he said. The collaborative raised \$110 million for green-space improvements and brought 34,000 volunteers to that effort. They have planted 21,000 new trees through the work of TreeVitalize. Thomas Baxter, executive director of Friends of the Riverfront, said the collaborative "needs to have a dialogue with the city" over maintenance of green assets. "Maintenance is now one-third of our mission," he said, to which Mr. Dowd raised his eyebrows. "We are at 60 percent maintenance at this point," said Danielle Crumrine, executive director of Tree Pittsburgh. "We don't put a tree in the ground without a tree care plan."

From Early Bird Suit: Buncher ignores stormwater issues (Monday) Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future filed a federal lawsuit Monday against the city of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority, claiming redevelopment plans for the Buncher property in the Strip District do not include adequate stormwater management. The lawsuit alleges that the city is not following its own stormwater management program nor that of the federal Environmental Protection Agency in allowing the project. Buncher has proposed a 55-acre project involving offices, retail and housing between the Veterans Bridge and 21st Street and from Smallman Street to the Allegheny River. According to the complaint, the Buncher Co. began construction of a new roadway near the Allegheny River between 11th and 14th streets without submitting a stormwater management site plan. After PennFuture sent a notice of intent to sue in April, the lawsuit said, such a report was filed. On May 3, and again on May 30, the city issued letters agreeing that the plan met city regulations.

From Early Bird 'Truthland' screening comes to central PennsylvaniaHARRISBURG -- A new industry-sponsored documentary firing shots at Josh Fox and his controversial film brought its road show to central Pennsylvania on Tuesday, where a dozen residents and experts gathered for an evening screening. "Truthland" -- a 34-minute film produced by the Independent Petroleum Association of America and Energy In Depth -- primarily offers a broad critique of Fox's 2010 anti-drilling documentary, "Gasland." Its protagonist, Shelly Depue, is depicted as a rural teacher and mother who sets out to find answers after watching "Gasland" with her family. Cameras follow her as she talks to former state environmental officials, leaseholders and -- like in Fox's film -- a man whose water can be lit on fire. "That's what happens if you smoke in the shower," says Robert Sandell, of New York, as a small fireball erupts when he touches the flame of a blowtorch to his running faucet. She looks at him and asks, there's no drilling, no fracking nearby to have caused the methane to migrate into drinking water, right? Nope, he says, noting that hydraulic fracturing still is not allowed in New York. Her questions are framed to emphasize the film's main conclusion: that, as the gas industry has argued since the release of Fox's documentary, the earlier film is misleading in portraying hydraulic fracturing as the source of environmental problems that have arisen in the Marcellus Shale region.

From Early Bird Blog: Findings mixed in fracking-water study A Duke University study that examined the possibility that Marcellus Shale drilling in northeastern Pennsylvania contaminates drinking water concluded that pathways in rock formations that allowed salinated water into shallow aquifers were naturally occurring and not a result of hydraulic fracturing. Still, the authors warned in the study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that those naturally occurring pathways could allow chemicals and contaminated water caused by fracking also to travel into the drinking water supply. Avner Vengosh, a Duke University

professor of geochemistry and a corresponding author of the paper, characterized it as "good news, bad news." "We're ruling out [that] this saline water derived from today's shale gas drilling," he said. But, he continued, "everything is not black and white. We're just in the very beginning of understanding what's going on. The result of this study does not apply to all of Pennsylvania or all areas of the Appalachian Basin. It needs to be duplicated." Katy Gresh, a spokeswoman with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, said her office could not comment on the study because it had just seen it. "We will review it," she said, adding, "We've never seen any evidence in Pennsylvania of hydraulic fracturing contaminating drinking water supplies."

READING EAGLE-TIMES

From Early Bird Hereford groundwater treatment facility ready to start operating Donna Kramer was in her late 20s and healthy when she moved into her home along Dale Road in Hereford Township in 1976. By the early 1980s she developed frequent respiratory problems. Doctors had no answers for the illnesses. A few years later, after suspecting a problem with groundwater, Kramer helped persuade the state to test groundwater in the area. The testing and the investigation would lead to the establishment of the Crossley Farm Superfund site less than a mile from her residence. On Tuesday, Kramer drove to the 24-acre site to see the fruits of her efforts from 30 years ago: a newly constructed \$10 million water treatment facility. Kramer, 60, was among a group that included public and environmental officials and other Hereford Township residents at a ribbon-cutting and tour of the facility, which is expected to rid the area's groundwater of trichloroethylene - a carcinogen commonly used as a metal degreaser - within 30 years. The plant will draw water from existing extraction wells, treat the water and then pour it into pits. The plant becomes operational next week. Kramer, who blamed contaminated water for health problems, has a water treatment system and her health problems have dissipated. "I drank it about five or six years before I found it," Kramer said. "I'm hoping it didn't cause any damage or anything. I seem to be healthy." The celebration marked the end of a yearlong construction project but the beginning of up to 12 months of testing, said Roy Schrock, remedial project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Schrock said he will monitor the facility's impact on the nearby Perkiomen Creek and the array of wells and home water-treatment systems in the area. Public and private wells within four miles of the site supply about 4,800 people. "It (the plant) needs to meet the same discharge standards as any wastewater discharge," said Lynn Langer of the state Department of Environmental Protection. After the tour, Schrock said the discharged water could push down the water table. "There is a chance it will affect their wells," he said. "If that happens, I'll have to figure out a new way to provide water or dig a new well." In the 1990s officials traced the contamination to about 1,200 containers of TCE-contaminated liquid waste Bally Case and Cooler dumped at the site in the 1960s and '70s. Levels of TCE have been measured as high as 700,000 micrograms per liter in the groundwater. The drinking water standard allows for 5 micrograms per liter. The treated water will be discharged into one of two 200-foot-long pits - one along Dairy Lane, the other Dale Road - that Schrock likened to French drains. Schrock said the facility will discharge cool water into the Perkiomen Creek. It will create conditions that fish will prefer, he said.

WFMZ-TV 69 ALLENTOWN/READING

From Early Bird Ribbon cut on new water treatment plant (Video link) HEREFORD TWP., Pa. -Decades of contamination are no match for a new water treatment plant in eastern Berks County. The plant will treat groundwater near the Crossley Farm superfund site in Hereford Township for the chemical known as TCE. Officials said the farm was once used for dumping various types of waste, leading to groundwater contamination. Officials called today's ribbon cutting a tremendous success story. The process of treating the water involves air stripping technology and carbon filtration

From Early Bird People asked to conserve water in North Heidelberg NORTH HEIDELBERG TWP., Pa. -The hot, dry weather is part of the reason folks are being asked to conserve water in North Heidelberg Township. Officials with the Reading Area Water Authority say well water levels are currently at less than half of their normal levels. Restrictions include no washing cars and no watering lawns. They went into effect Friday, and remain in effect until further notice.

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

From Early Bird EPA plans to remove tainted soil Concerned about health hazards, Doylestown residents and business owners flocked to a Tuesday night meeting to hear proposed plans for cleaning up soil at a Broad Street property contaminated with industrial chemicals that can cause everything from lung cancer to liver damage. What they learned was that the Environmental Protection Agency's preferred clean-up plan involves excavating approximately 3,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the former Chem-Fab plant and trucking the waste to disposal facilities. "It's the most long term and permanent solution to addressing contamination," said Huu Ngo, the EPA remedial project manager leading the mitigation effort. Federal funds would pay for the estimated \$2.25 million dollar project, though EPA officials noted the funding must still be applied for. Ngo said EPA officials considered a \$1 million alternative plan that involves placing a low permeability cap over contaminated soils, thereby preventing rainwater from driving contaminants down into groundwater. However, experts determined that option wasn't as good a solution as removing the most contaminated soil, which lies outside the footprint of buildings currently on site. In response to residents' questions, Ngo said there is no firm timeline for when remediation would begin. He said the design phase could take six months to a year — and possibly longer than that if unforeseen complications arise. Once project design is complete, officials would have to apply for the funding from the federal government.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

From Early Bird Make utilities find lost gas Natural gas prices have declined steadily over the last few years because of the discovery of huge new domestic sources, including the Marcellus Shale. Consumers could save even more if the state Public Utility Commission would force gas utilities to account for the vast amounts of gas that they lose between the well and the consumer. According to a February report by the PUC, Pennsylvania consumers pay up to \$131 million a year for gas that never reaches their furnaces, stoves or industrial process because it escapes from delivery systems. Utilities reported losing amounts from zero to 11.9 percent of their volume, second nationally to California. Pennsylvania's market is the ninth largest nationwide. Consumers pay for the lost gas through the "supply charge" portion of their gas bills. Because consumers pay regardless of whether they receive the gas, there is little incentive for utilities to "find" the lost gas. According to the PUC, each utility has its own formula for calculating the amount of lost gas. The PUC should standardize a formula and require utilities to tell consumers specifically how much lost gas they are paying for each month. To reduce that amount, thus conserving fuel and giving customers more of what they are paying for, rate increases should be tied to system improvements.

ERIE TIMES NEWS

From Early Bird Swimming advisories posted at six Presque Isle beaches Presque Isle State Park posted swimming advisories this morning for six of its beaches and lifted an advisory for another. Advisories were posted for Beaches 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and the Mill Road Beach due to high E. coli bacteria counts, park officials said in a news release. An advisory posted Monday for Beach 9 was lifted this morning. Swimming is still permitted at beaches with advisories, but it's recommended that people avoid swallowing lake water and getting water into open cuts and wounds. Swimmers should also wash their hands before handling food. The advisory was to remain in effect until the bacteria count at the beach returned to a level that is considered safe

From Early Bird Enviro Camp under way at Presque Isle Phragmites grows tall and thick around Thompson Bay at Presque Isle State Park. "It's like walking through a cornfield, only worse," professor Bob Whyte said as he prepared to lead students through a 12-foot-tall patch of the invasive reed grass. His group will study the non-native species' effect on native plants, bugs, birds and mammals at the park. The team is one of four taking part in a new environmental camp offered by the Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in partnership with the Regional Science Consortium. The five-day Enviro Camp, which began Monday, was funded by a \$25,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation. "This is learning experience, field work," said Stephanie Snyder, 16. A junior at McDowell High School, Snyder said she wants to do environmental education. She would like to teach young people to get out in the environment instead of sitting and watching television or playing video games. Engaging students and exciting them about the environment is a goal of the camp, said Mike Gildea, executive director of

Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. "We look at this as one of those building block experiences for the students," he said. He hopes that after the camp, participants will consider environmental studies in college or environmental careers. At the camp, 12 students from six Erie County high schools are working with professors and college students. Essays by high school students who applied for the camp helped determine what group they were put into, said Jeanette Schnars, the Regional Science Consortium's executive director.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

From Early Bird Brazilian Petrochemical Company Buys Part of Delaware County Refinery Plastic utensils, lids, autoparts and toys all begin with raw materials created from fossil fuels. Braskem America, one of the largest plastics producers in the United States and Latin America, has bought part of Sunoco's Marcus Hook refinery. The company plans to use the refinery's "propylene splitter" to process low grade propylene, which gets turned into polypropylene, or plastics. Braskem says they have secured enough raw material to operate the splitter. Braskem already operates three polypropylene plants in Marcus Hook, Delaware County. Gov. Corbett and Braskem representatives plan to announce more details about the operation on Wednesday. State and county officials recently issued a study by IHS Global that listed several options for the refinery's reuse. The consultants emphasized the need for turning Marcellus Shale gas liquids into raw materials used in plastic manufacturing. Three refineries in the Philadelphia area have faced shutdowns this year. The ConocoPhillips plant in Trainer, Delaware County was bought by Delta Airlines, and a private equity firm purchased Sunoco's Philadelphia plant with plans to process domestic shale oil from North Dakota. But the fate of the Marcus Hook refinery is still uncertain.

From Early Bird The Politics Of Last Month's Southeast Drilling Moratorium

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

Hearing on Limerick nuke plant using more river water set for Aug. 28 POTTSTOWN — It may not be the trial of the century, but it may be the longest trial in a century. Eight years after announcing a public hearing would be held in the Pottstown area regarding Exelon's "trial" project that puts water from a closed coal mine into the Schuylkill River to allow the withdrawal of additional river water downstream, **a date for the hearing** has finally been set. On Aug. 28, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will hold a three-hour public hearing at the Sunnybrook Ballroom regarding the "demonstration project." Written public comments on the proposal will be accepted through Oct. 27. **The DRBC has proposed** approving an increase in the amount of water withdrawn from the Schuylkill by two million gallons — up to 58.2 million gallons. In addition to withdrawals, the decision up for review and comment would renew the state DEP's approval for continued discharge of "cooling tower blowdown, treated process wastewater and stormwater into the Schuylkill and Possum Hollow Run through various outfalls."

EXAMINER.COM

No Marcellus shale gas boom for Scranton Pennsylvania (yesterday) Today, with shale gas drilling booming in 3 nearby counties, the mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania and all city employees remain on minimum wages of \$7.25 an hour as the city struggles with an estimated \$17 million budget shortfall. The mayor, blocked by his city council from raising taxes now finds even though his city is near the state's epicenter of shale gas operations, the state's new impact fee formula does not allow Scranton to directly access any of these new found revenues. Scranton's current budget stands at \$78 million per year. Based on how the new Act 13 impact fee formula works, new state fees levied on shale gas drillers primarily go to those counties which 'host' drilling wells. Not lucky enough to be sitting on its own shale gas reserves, Scranton now finds itself on the outside looking in as 3 of its neighboring counties of Bradford, Susquehanna and Tioga are all getting ready to receive millions in new found shale gas impact fees on top of an already rich flow of shale gas companies land lease royalty payments due to the intense industry drilling in those counties.

MONTGOMERY TIMES-HERALD

Dow Chemical Company to call Collegeville home next year COLLEGEVILLE - A multinational chemical corporation will be calling Collegeville home in the early part of 2013. The Dow Chemical Company announced on Thursday that the company will relocate from Spring House to a state-of-the-art research and development facility owned by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, Inc. "We conducted a feasibility study because we are really looking to invest in the researchers and work that is being done at the Spring House site," said Dow spokeswoman Lindsay Torriero.

Green Mountain Energy brings clean energy to PA

UPPER MERION - Though the similarity of their names often creates confusion, the fuel provided by Green Mountain Energy could never be mistaken for the caffeinated energy source dispensed by Green Mountain Coffee Company. It was just about a month ago that the nation's longest-operating clean energy retailer, Green Mountain Energy Company, began offering its totally pollution-free electricity honed from the sun, wind and water to Pennsylvania residents in the all-important PECO and PPL territories. With the expansion into the Keystone state, Green Mountain and its growing customer base will foster the demand for renewable energy production while reducing the need for traditional fossil-fueled electricity, said John Holtz, director of market development, who's been with the company for 14 of its 15 years of existence.

PHILLYBURBS.COM

Quarry closes up more Solebury School sinkholes New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry has been working to repair sinkholes on the Solebury School campus. A consultant was hired by the quarry to repair the sinkholes before the private school's fall semester begins in late August, according to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection geologist Michael Kutney. The school has already had more than 25 sinkholes across its 90-acre campus, and recently it has dealt with several more that range in size from a couple feet to a couple yards. On Tuesday, Solebury Township supervisors met with DEP officials to discuss the quarry. To the dismay of some residents — who have alleged that the quarry has sucked some nearby private water wells dry, pocked properties with sinkholes and damaged natural resources like the Primose Creek — supervisors in May dropped out of a legal battle against the quarry over its plans for expanded operations.

GANT DAILY

Town Meeting Set for Proposed Disposal Injection Well CLEARFIELD – During the public comment session Tuesday, DuBois resident Marianne Atkinson updated the Clearfield County Commissioners about the status of a proposed disposal injection well off Highland Street Extension in Brady Township. Windfall Oil and Gas of Falls Creek has proposed the well for disposing wastewater from hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus shale natural gas drilling operations. Atkinson opposes the construction of the disposal injection well, as it would be located only two miles from city limits and could contaminate residents' water. Atkinson recently contacted the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which confirmed Windfall Oil and Gas had submitted an application for its proposed construction of the disposal injection well. Both the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal EPA must grant permits for the disposal injection well. Atkinson said a town meeting will be held Monday, July 23 for elected officials and residents to convene and publicly discuss the proposed disposal injection well. She said State Reps. Camille "Bud" George, D-74 of Houtzdale and Matt Gabler, R-75 of DuBois, were invited to the meeting.

DOYLESTOWN-BUCKINGHAM-NEWTOWNPATCH

EPA Presents Plan to Deal with Former Chem-Fab Site Soil A plan to eliminate 3,600 cubic yards of soil contamination has been presented. The Chem-Fab Superfund site at 300-360 N. Broad St in Doylestown is finally about to get its soil contamination remediated. The former electroplating facility had a history of industrial waste infractions dating to the 1960s. There have already been rounds of environmental clean-up before. In 1987, action was taken regarding groundwater and well contamination; in 1994-95 over 100 drums and 8,400 gallons of liquid waste was removed. Now the soil will be taken care of. Out of three potential action plans, the EPA has chosen to "excavate and dispose of contaminated soils containing levels of chemicals presenting an unacceptable health risk

through direct contact or ingestion. These soils, estimated at approximately 3,600 cubic yards, would be disposed off-site. Excavated areas would then be backfilled with clean material. EPA will address this site's contaminated groundwater in a separate clean-up action." At a capacity crowd meeting Tuesday night in the stifling Doylestown borough council chambers, residents and business owners received an explanation of what's been found and what will be done to clean it up. The evening was run by Larry Johnson, with most of the presentation run by Huu Ngo—both of the EPA. They were joined by several other members of the EPA and DEP. While there are still further groundwater issues and vapor intrusion to be looked into, the presentation focused on soil removal, specifically due to it containing hexavalent chromium, trichloroethylene, and tetrachloroethylene (the last two being common solvents often found at Superfund sites).

PA DEP Fines Pittsburgh Companies for Asphalt Tank Violations in Four Counties MEADVILLE, Pa., July 11, 2012 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- The Department of Environmental Protection has signed a consent order and agreement with Russell Standard and Hammaker East LTD, both of Pittsburgh, for violations of the Storage Tank Act and associated regulations. The agreement requires the companies to pay a \$20,000 civil penalty for removing and installing storage tanks without the proper state-certified oversight and failing to obtain permits for tanks at asphalt plants in Adams Township, Butler County; Le Boeuf Township, Erie County; Greene Township, Franklin County; and Springfield Township, Mercer County. "The asphalt emulsions stored in these 26 tanks, which range in size from 6,000 to 158,000 gallons, are a regulated substance under the Storage Tank Act. The tanks should have been permitted accordingly," DEP Northwest Regional Director Kelly Burch said. "Certified installers must also be used for removing and installing tanks like these, and it is apparent that also did not occur." Asphalt emulsions are blends of asphalt, solvents, water and other agents and are used as sealants and binding agents in road paving.

CARE2

Don't Drink the Water: Fracking Fluid Likely in PA Drinking Water Live in Pennsylvania? Live near a fracking well? If so, the chances of finding fracking fluid seeping into your drinking water — a major concern that's been touted by environmental groups and independent researchers for years — may be more likely than previously thought. Scientists at Duke University and California State Polytechnic University at Pomona found that water from wells and aquifers in Northeastern Pennsylvania contained traces of brine from the Marcellus Shale, the shale deposit found in the northern Appalachian region of North America and the deposit popularly cited for domestic fracking operations. Brine, a naturally occurring substance, is acting as an indicator to a disturbing fact: previously thought to be "contained" underground chemicals may not be so contained after all. In fact, these same chemicals could be seeping toward the surface and into our drinking water supply much more easily and frequently than predicted. While no specific fracking chemicals were detected in this study, the mere thought that chemicals can move freely through underground rock layers more so than previously believed is very alarming. The findings also contradict the notion typically upheld by vested interests, predominately composed of oil and gas companies, that rock formations deep within the Earth will securely seal in material injected thousands of feet underground, whether through underground disposal or drilling. However, matter can't just disappear and will inevitably end up somewhere down the line.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

New study monitors W. Pa. fracking fluid PITTSBURGH (AP) — A new study being done by the Department of Energy may provide some of the first solid answers to an extremely controversial question — whether gas drilling fluids migrate and pose a threat to drinking water. DOE spokesman Richard Hammack says a gas drilling company in southwestern Pennsylvania has let researchers add tracing compounds to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking fluids. Hammack says researchers will now be able to monitor whether the drilling fluids move upwards or sideways from the well bottom, which is 8,100 feet deep. Environmentalists have claimed the fluids associated with drilling could rise and pollute shallow drinking water aquifers. The industry and many state and federal officials say the practice is safe when done properly, but there have also been cases where faulty wells did cause pollution.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Bloom Energy ruling heads to court

CAPE GAZETTE

Herbicide-resistant weeds mean harsher chemicals

Scientists develop corn to withstand Agent Orange chemical. Delmarva weed scientist Dr. Raymond Forney carries a photo of African children working in a cornfield. Forney points to a weed in the frame of the photo – it's pigweed – the same herbicide-resistant weed plaguing farmers across the United States. Forney has been studying weeds for most of his life starting when he was a farmer in Delaware. In 2000, he and University of Delaware researcher Mark VanGessel worked on the first recorded glyphosate-resistant weeds – first discovered in a farm field in Delaware. Forney said pigweed and other herbicide-resistant weeds exist wherever there is agriculture in the world. In order to protect their livelihoods, farmers had to go with the best science available, which meant using harsher herbicides on their fields. To combat pigweed and marehail, some farmers have now turned to 2,4-D, a component of Agent Orange developed during the Vietnam War to decimate the jungles of Southeast Asia. Now some consumers and environmentalists say using such a harsh chemical on fields where it could leech into drinking water or could pose health risks. Forney said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regularly studies 2,4-D and other chemicals used in agriculture. "The EPA continues to find that 2,4-D has a reasonable safety profile to humans and the environment," Forney said. "That's the best science that this country has to offer."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

From Early Bird Why don't fed workers work at home? Teleworking makes sense — dollars and cents.

Promoting the ability of federal employees to work from home can reduce government overhead, improve employee work-life balance and allow work to continue when government offices need to close. Yet many who could, don't. It doesn't work for every government gig, but it almost certainly is a good idea for more federal workers than (1) those who are allowed to use it and (2) those who do use it. An Office of Personnel Management (OPM) report on the "Status of Telework in the Federal Government" indicates that 32 percent of federal workers are eligible to telework. Of those, fewer than 25 percent actually teleworked in September. OPM doesn't know how many employees teleworked during the recent period of storms and heat. The Patent and Trademark Office, where nearly two-thirds of employees work from home, has long been in the forefront of teleworking among governmental agencies. "Telework is a well-accepted business strategy and a large part of our culture," said Danette R. Campbell, the agency's senior telework adviser. "Managers realize the positive impact this strategy has on real estate cost-avoidance, production, recruiting and retaining a highly skilled workforce, and continuity of operations."

WASHINGTON TIMES

Md. legislators recognized for devotion to environment Local Maryland legislators earned the highest scores in the state on the Maryland League of Conservation Voters' annual environmental scorecard. The scorecards, which will be released online Tuesday, grade legislators on their stance on environmental issues. The grade is determined through how a legislator votes on particular bills that "tell the story of when it's a hard choice to vote to protect the environment," said Jen Brock-Cancellieri, deputy director of the league. Delegates from the D.C. area garnered a 97 percent score average, in comparison with the House of Delegates' overall 69 percent average. The Senate came in just a tad lower. Local senators received an 88 percent average, and the Senate as a whole had a rating of 63 percent. Sen. Paul G. Pinsky, Prince George's Democrat, was one of the eight senators to earn 100 percent ratings.

More than 30 delegates were awarded perfect scores, including Delegate Heather Mizeur, Montgomery County Democrat. She led a push for legislation to increase safeguards and penalties for contamination caused by drilling for oil in Western Maryland's Marcellus shale layer. The legislation passed the House but did not make it out of the Senate.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

From Early Bird Low water, no rain force Tygart Lake Marina to close CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Low water levels and a dry spring and summer are causing the marina at Tygart Lake State Park near Grafton to close for the season this weekend, nearly two months earlier than normal. "With no significant rainfall in the forecast, the marina is forced to close," said Jim Browning, the park's assistant superintendent. "The lake will be at 17 feet below summer pool by July 19," he said. By Aug. 2, the lake is expected to dip to 23 feet below its normal summer pool. Already, one launch ramp at the marina is out of service due to low water, and the second ramp is expected to be out of service soon. When the second ramp is no longer usable, boaters will only be able to access the lake by using a ramp at nearby Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area. Marina operator Jeff McLean said this season's closure is the earliest in his 24 years as a concessionaire at the lake. Normally, the marina closes for the season on Sept. 15. "The Corps has been letting the minimum amount of water out of the lake; there's just nothing coming in," he said. "We've been losing about six inches of water a day. Nobody likes it, but it's the weather -- there's nothing you can do about it." The premature closing of Tygart Lake's marina is expected to begin on Friday and be complete by July 19.

From Early Bird Monongahela Forest offers downed trees for firewood CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- In the wake of the June 29 derecho, Monongahela National Forest is converting its tree-impaired roads into free public firewood gathering sites in two of its hardest-hit ranger districts. By obtaining free firewood permits from ...

More than 8000 Appalachian Power customers still without electricity CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- More than 8000 Appalachian Power customers still had no electricity this morning, including about 1300 in Kanawha County.

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

From Early Bird This official called the plays on Kanawha storm recovery efforts CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Storm after storm, as one day of massive power outages followed another, Jennifer Sayre kept hitting "send." Emergency phone numbers. Cooling stations. Overnight shelters. Ice and water distribution points. Send. Send. Send...

From Early Bird Power fully restored in several counties CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- As West Virginia's electric utilities move closer and closer to full power restoration in the state, emergency facilities in Kanawha County have begun to close. By Tuesday evening, 11 counties across the state had seen full restora...

WBOY-TV

From Early Bird Natural Gas Companies Co-Host Marcellus Shale Meeting MORGANTOWN - Energize West Virginia and America's Natural Gas Alliance started the second round of town hall meetings focused on Marcellus Shale drilling. Representatives from the non-profits hosted the meeting in Morgantown Tuesday night. After a brief presentation, a panel took questions from the audience for about an hour. Organizers hoped to clear up public

concern and were pleased with the forum. "I think people are here to really learn, they've got honest questions that run the gamut from technical questions, about how we drill wells, to questions about lease hold and everything else, so I think it went really well. We had good questions and hopefully had good dialogue," said Kyle Mork, Vice President of Eastern Operations for Energy Corporation of America. Some residents, however, weren't so thrilled and walked away disappointed. "I certainly appreciate the chance to share information, this particular meeting was not as satisfying as many we've been to because we clearly had a one sided panel that was presenting information tonight," said Jim Kotcon of the Sierra Club West Virginia chapter. Four more meetings are set up around the state. Below is a full list of dates and locations.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE JOURNAL

From Early Bird Mon Power outage reduced below 12600 customers FirstEnergy Corp. employees, contractors and outside utility crew members continue working around the clock to restore power to fewer than 12,600 Mon Power customers in West Virginia who lost power as a result of recent severe storms that hit the region. More than 1,700 linemen continue working on outage orders, especially the harder-hit areas near Fairlea, Gassaway, and the outlying areas of Parkersburg. However, the remaining work is especially labor-intensive, with smaller numbers of customers being restored with each repair. While the majority of affected customers in most counties served by Mon Power should be restored by Wednesday evening, a few customers in the hardest-hit areas might not be fully restored until later in the week.

From Early Bird Study: Marcellus shale brine naturally migrates to surface A new study published by Duke University found that natural pathways in the Marcellus shale formation likely allows material to migrate into shallow drinking water aquifers. The good news, a release from the university points out, is that the pathways are natural and not caused by the process of hydraulic fracturing. The bad news is that those pathways may allow toxic chemicals used in the fracking process to migrate into groundwater supplies via natural pathways. The study challenges the industry assumption that layers of bedrock over the Marcellus formation contains material underneath. If fluid can migrate up to the surface, or just to groundwater sources, fears of water contamination from the fracturing process could be realized. While no direct link between salinity and the amount of gas exploration in a region was found by the study, researchers did find "elevated levels of salinity with similar geochemistry to deep Marcellus brine in drinking water samples from three groundwater aquifers." Avner Vengosh, professor of geochemistry and water quality at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, said the locations of the samples indicate that fracturing is not a likely cause of the migrations itself. "This could mean that some drinking water supplies in northeastern Pennsylvania are at increased risk for contamination, particularly from fugitive gases that leak from shale gas well casings," Vengosh said. The study was conducted in Pennsylvania, and well water from the Lock Haven Alluvium and Catskill aquifers were where elevated levels of salinity were detected. "The small group of homes whose water we sampled may be at higher risk of contamination due to underlying geology," said Nathaniel Warner, a Ph.D. student at Duke and lead author of the study. "By identifying the geochemical fingerprint of Marcellus brine, we can now more easily identify where these locations are and who these homeowners might be."

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

From Early Bird Relief efforts continue with water, ice handouts in Charleston For some West Virginia residents, the count is at 11 and 12 days without power. People from all over the state came to the corner of Smith and Morris in Charleston Tuesday to stock up on ice and water.

WDTV MORGANTOWN

From Early Bird Morgantown Residents Learn about Marcellus Shale Drilling (Video link) The natural gas industry was the hot topic Tuesday night in Morgantown, as residents had the chance to voice their opinions and get questions answered about Marcellus Shale drilling. Energize West Virginia with Natural Gas and America's Natural Gas Alliance sponsored the forum, which was held at the Ramada Inn in Morgantown. Representatives from the gas

industry shared updates about business here in the Mountain State, and a panel of experts answered questions from the audience ranging from drilling practices, to water usage, to environmental concerns. "There's a lot of complexity in the industry, and that's why we want to go out often and answer people's questions, get them comfortable, because natural gas holds a lot of promise for West Virginia," said Scott Rotruck, Chesapeake Energy's vice president of corporate development. "We think that the industry and the regulatory industries need to toughen the rules and dramatically improve the enforcement of those rules to protect West Virginians," said Jim Kotcon with the West Virginia chapter of the Sierra Club. About 75 people attended the meeting.

EQUITIES

Industry fields fracking questions [The Dominion Post, Morgantown] July 11--On the same day Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin announced the membership of his Natural Gas Vehicle Task Force, the industry advocacy group, Energize West Virginia with Natural Gas, held its first 2012 town hall at the Morgantown Ramada Inn. The timing was coincidental -- the forum had been planned for some time -- but highlighted the ongoing importance of the Marcellus shale industry to the state's economic future. The Tuesday evening forum drew several dozen people -- some outspokenly for or against the gas industry -- for an overview on fracking and a Q&A session. Kim Lawrence, with Energize West Virginia, reviewed some of the technology and bright economic forecasts regarding the Marcellus shale industry -- reported frequently in The Dominion Post -- noting the industry has generated 7,600 new West Virginia jobs in the past five years: The natural gas workforce now totals 37,600 jobs. Audience member Renee Hernandez, of Morgantown, protested fracking at several public meetings and was chastised by other audience members and panelists several times Monday for disrupting the program. She raised the issue of a 2010 lawsuit filed against Texasbased Southwestern Energy Co. alleging faulty cement on a well casing led to contamination of a northeast Pennsylvania aquifer.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

From Early Bird Septic, farm rules debated before lawmakers Farmers, builders and rural officials joined Tuesday in blasting new state environmental regulations that would limit growers' use of fertilizer and require more costly but less polluting septic systems on all new homes not connected to sewers. O'Malley administration officials appeared before the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee, a joint House-Senate panel, to explain and defend rules they said are needed to reduce nutrient pollution fouling the Chesapeake Bay. But those affected by the regulations complained they were costly, harmful to their livelihoods and unnecessary. And rural lawmakers on the panel objected that the septic regulation represented an end run around the General Assembly, which had balked at requiring less-polluting septic systems three years ago. "It is in the legislature that we should do this," said Sen. E.J. Pipkin, a Republican who represents the upper Eastern Shore. Shortly after the legislature adjourned in April, on the heels of adopting a new law restricting where development can occur using septic systems, the Maryland Department of the Environment proposed requiring that all new septic systems installed in the state be capable of removing nitrogen from wastewater. Households using conventional septic systems leak up to 10 times as much bay-fouling nitrogen into ground water and nearby streams as does a household hooked up to a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant, officials say.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

From Early Bird Dramatic summer heat puts stress on poultry growers ACCOMAC -- The recent hot weather presents a challenge to Delmarva's 1,700 poultry farmers, especially those with a flock close to harvest-size. "This is going to be my last summer flock," said Perdue Farms grower Jack Lavelle, 68, of Accomac, adding, "Literally, around 7 o'clock in the evening, you can feel the heat coming off them." Lavelle, who has been in the business since 1970, said summers are getting hotter, meaning there is greater stress on flocks. Moreover, he said he will spend in excess of \$3,000 this month on electricity to run three broiler houses with a capacity of 50,000 birds. The flock Lavelle has now is 5 weeks old -- the size where high temperatures become especially dangerous. The

chickens go to market at between 49 and 51 days old. "The closer you are to market weight, the more difficult it is," said Nathaniel Tablante, extension poultry veterinarian with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Maryland, College Park. "At 100-plus degrees...

EDGEWATER-DAVIDSONVILLE PATCH

From Early Bird Local Riverkeeper Hesitant to Celebrate Governor's Bay 'Milestones' While Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Monday that Maryland had met milestone goals to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, a local riverkeeper says she would like to see more evidence. By gauging nitrogen and phosphorous poundage and reviewing "cover crops," the governor declared that the bay is on its way to prominence thanks to recent legislative efforts. However, following O'Malley's announcement, local chemist and water expert Diana Muller said the governor's assessment needs to be backed up with statistical evidence before riverkeepers like herself celebrate any real success. O'Malley's announcement stated that progress was achieved by planting 429,818 acres of cover crops, preventing about 2.58 million pounds of nitrogen and 86,000 pounds of phosphorous from impacting the bay. But Muller was more than hesitant to accept the statement. "As a riverkeeper, I'm excited that the state of Maryland is on the right track ... but as a chemist, I also sit on larger bay committees and there has been zero measurable anything," Muller said. "We haven't had enough time to measure nutrients to know if they're decreasing pounds." Cover crops are a traditional way to keep harmful nutrients from entering the Bay during rainy seasons. They are used to cover primary crops and prevent raw dirt from running off into the bay—but it doesn't automatically equate to a healthier Chesapeake Bay, Muller said. "[Instantly crediting cover crops], it's actually kind of grey washing. It's saying, because we have cover crops, therefore we should be decreasing this amount," Muller said. "It's all speculative. Just because we have more cover crops doesn't actually mean the bay is in better shape."

ABC-TV 2 BALTIMORE

From Early Bird Effort to save *Chesapeake Bay* carries costs BALTIMORE COUNTY, Md. - He's been up since 2:30 in the morning, and Ned Ensor will work until dark running his small dairy farm in Baltimore County. After all, he has no choice. "It's getting harder and harder to compete," said Ensor, "The price of milk is declining too and all our other inputs---energy costs are all increasing, feed costs are going up so it's definitely harder." New regulations designed to clean up the Chesapeake Bay may make Ensor's job even tougher. The state plans to prohibit livestock owners from spreading fertilizer four months out of the year forcing them to store manure instead. "One farmer got an estimate that it would cost up to \$100,000 just to add twelve inches to his manure storage tank," said Senator Barry Glassman (R-Harford County). Glassman adds that measure coupled with a rule, which would make farmers fence around streams on their property---denying their use for planting, irrigation or watering animals could spell the further demise of Maryland agriculture. "Since the Eighties we've seen about a 50% reduction in the cattle population in Maryland... a 90% reduction in hog and swine production." Maryland farmers already lead the nation in the use of cover crops to keep nutrients from spilling into the bay, and many take exception to claims that paint them as polluters. "You know it's easy to blame the farmers for all of the problems on the Bay, but we do a good job with our nutrient management. Fertilizer costs too much to waste and we're not wasting it," said Ensor, "As far as farmers being the problem with the pollution in the bay, I think that's a bunch of crap." Critics of the new rules say the farmers' coop may file a federal suit against the state for rendering some of their land useless without paying them for it.

MARYLAND REPORER.COM

From Early Bird New septic system requirements fire up opponents at hearing More than two dozen witnesses testified before a joint legislative committee Tuesday on proposed regulation for upgraded septic systems across the state, most of them opposing the rule change. State Department of the Environment officials who wrote the regulations — the only proponents aside from environmentalists — told the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review joint committee that applying best available septic technology statewide is the way to reduce nutrient sediment load in the Chesapeake Bay. Sen. David Brinkley, R-Frederick, a committee member, and other opponents, however, didn't buy the underlying science and faulted the Environment Department for "nonsensical" numbers. Family farmer John Rigdon of Harford County said, "If 6% of (nutrient sediment) is getting into Bay, it

took 200 years to get there. It's not going to increase by 6% each year" with future development. Brinkley argued that not only do septic installers stand to gain from the mandate but Marylanders would be footing the bill for benefits reaped by neighboring bay states. Other legislators also found the proposed regulation to be too expensive and beyond the scope of the Environment Department's authority. There were so many members missing from the committee that it could take no official action on the septic upgrades. The AELR committee also heard testimony opposing new restrictions on use of manure on farms, which were opposed by many farmers.

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

From Early Bird Tour de Frack bicycle ride to raise awareness of Marcellus shale drilling CUMBERLAND — Participants in the Tour de Frack, or Freedom Ride for Awareness and Community Knowledge, plan to arrive in Frostburg and travel to Cumberland on July 19. The 400-mile bike ride from Butler, Pa., to Washington is to raise awareness of the effects of unconventional gas drilling on local communities. As cyclists travel along the Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal Towpath, they will collect letters from residents who are impacted by gas drilling and fracking. A community ride, hosted by Save Western Maryland, will gather at the GAP trailhead in Frostburg on July 19 at 6 p.m. and culminate in stories and an evening of music by local acoustic artist Nathan Friend from 7 to 9 p.m. at Canal Place. Riders will carry messages from people on ribbons attached to their bikes. Ribbons will be provided by Save Western Maryland at the trailhead in Frostburg or riders may bring their own. A van will shuttle riders back to Frostburg to retrieve their cars but there will be no transportation for bikes. Tour de Frack and Save Western Maryland encourage family and friends who are not biking to bring a lawn chair and join the evening event at Canal Place to show support. Tour de Frack initiators will also carry a collective water jug with the message "we all live downstream." Organizations and participants are asked to bring a clear container of water from a local water source to be added to the jug, emphasizing that "as we travel upstream and down ... even if a small amount of contaminated water was added to our collective water, the entirety of its contents would now be polluted." Although drilling in Maryland is delayed by a governor's executive order until sufficient studies are completed on its impacts, some Pennsylvania residents have been dealing with the impacts of heavy industrial drilling and fracking activity. Maryland residents will have the opportunity to learn from neighboring people who are living with the effects of fracking and unconventional drilling. For more information, go to www.tourdefrack.com or email Matia Vanderbilt at savewesternmaryland@hotmail.com.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

From Early Bird Panel hears testimony on regulations requiring best available technology for septic systems ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Regulations requiring new Maryland construction to use the best technology in septic systems would help clean up the Chesapeake Bay, supporters told lawmakers Tuesday, but critics said the proposal by Gov. Martin O'Malley's administration is a back-door effort to implement a plan already rejected by the Legislature. Robert Summers, secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, told members of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review that the regulations are part of an effort to reduce nitrogen released into the polluted bay by 11.6 million pounds by 2026. Summers said the septic law, combined with the regulation, will equal a reduction in nitrogen produced by about 31,000 households. "So each year, this will reduce the equivalent of the discharge of nitrogen from the city of Cambridge," Summers told the panel. He noted that the western half of Garrett County in western Maryland and a part of Cecil County will be exempt from the regulations. But Republican critics said the requirement would add about \$8,000 to the cost of a new home — a serious concern that they say should be addressed by the full General Assembly, not just a regulatory agency in the executive branch. Lawmakers rejected a statewide requirement for best available technology in 2009, and critics also noted that the provision could have been considered in the septic bill during this year's regular session.

Panel hears testimony on septic system regulations ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - Regulations requiring new Maryland construction to use the best technology in septic systems would help clean up the Chesapeake Bay, supporters told lawmakers Tuesday, but critics said the proposal by Gov. Martin O'Malley's administration is a back-door effort to implement a plan already rejected by the Legislature. Robert Summers, secretary of the Maryland Department of the

Environment, told members of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review that the regulations are part of an effort to reduce nitrogen released into the polluted bay by 11.6 million pounds by 2026. Summers said the septic law, combined with the regulation, will equal a reduction in nitrogen produced by about 31,000 households. "So each year, this will reduce the equivalent of the discharge of nitrogen from the city of Cambridge," Summers told the panel. He noted that the western half of Garrett County in western Maryland and a part of Cecil County will be exempt from the regulations.

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT

Easton, Cambridge get green grants EASTON Easton is one of four localities in Maryland set to get green infrastructure grants intended to help with pollution reduction efforts, federal officials announced Monday. Lisa Jackson, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and outgoing chairwoman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, made the announcement at Monday's annual executive council meeting held in Virginia. The announcement included technical assistance for 14 local governments across the Bay watershed. The funding helps local governments make infrastructure changes that improve nearby water quality. Easton is slated to get a \$100,000 grant to develop tools and strategies to implement a community forestry program. That program would increase the town's tree canopy, with a focus on stream corridors and converting turf to trees. Cambridge, in Dorchester County, also is a recipient, with a \$150,000 grant for the revitalization of two main thoroughfares that intersect with U.S. Route 50 and serve as main streets. The project also would identify priority opportunities for stormwater retrofits throughout the city. Prince George's County and Havre de Grace are the other two grant recipients announced Monday. U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski, both D-MD., lauded the announcement.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

From Early Bird Editorial: Chesapeake Bay: Improvement Efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay have not always paid the dividends that defenders of natural resources would hope. Numerous reasons account for that, from the complexity of the problem itself to the herding-cats difficulty of getting every jurisdiction in the watershed pulling in the same direction at the same time. Nevertheless, hard work can pay off over time, and it seems to be doing so in this case. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other groups, Virginia has hit six of nine benchmarks for restoring the estuary. This is good news. But it is far from sufficient. Earlier this year, the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science gave the Bay's health a grade of D-plus. Even if you partly discount the low grade because of factors beyond human control, such as flooding from Tropical Storm Lee and algae blooms exacerbated by a hot summer, it is still nothing to write home about. Improving the health of the Bay is an exercise in diminishing marginal returns. Restoring the Bay to its condition before the arrival of colonists at Jamestown by removing the last microgram of pollution would cost untold billions that could do more environmental good elsewhere. But neither Virginia nor the other states in the watershed are anywhere near that point yet. The latest news means they should give themselves a pat on the back — then get back to work.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

From Early Bird Committing to Bay restoration Progress in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, detailed Monday by state and federal officials and environmentalists, was good news for the 17 million people who live in its watershed or enjoy oysters, crabs or fish from its waters. Half of Virginia drains into rivers flowing into the Chesapeake, so it's a particularly welcome sign that the state significantly cut nitrogen pollution, phosphorus and bacteria loads that come from wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, septic tanks and farmland. As The

Pilot's Debbie Messina reported, the Environmental Protection Agency named Virginia the "Biggest Loser" for preventing 2.5 million pounds of nitrogen from entering waterways. But high-fives and celebrations over two years in a multi-decade effort are premature. The goal by 2025 is to reduce pollution in the bay by another 50 percent, and as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation reminds us, the history of bay restoration is "full of long-term goals set - then missed." The foundation, the EPA and others have attempted to nudge six states and Washington, D.C., to improve sewage treatment systems and curb urban runoff, as well as encourage the agricultural industry to plant cover crops, keep livestock out of streams and increase vegetation along stream banks to reduce runoff.... Restoring the 64,000-square-mile watershed to health will require more commitment from property owners, businesses, farmers and communities. It will require more money, too. It will take help from Congress and the states, strict oversight and accountability by the EPA, diligence by cities to modernize treatment plants and continued positive reports every two years to get there..

From Early Bird USGS to map faults in Va. that caused 2011 quake LOUISA Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey plan to map underground faults in Virginia that caused last year's earthquake. The mapping will be done with a low-flying airplane carrying instruments that will measure gravitational and magnetic pull at different sites. The agency says it's the first time that airborne gravity will be used as a tool in the U.S. to map a seismic hazard.

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

From Early Bird US House to take up 2012 Farm Bill on Wednesday The U.S. House of Representatives' agriculture committee will begin debating the 2012 Farm Bill – the blueprint for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's spending for the next five years – on Wednesday. In June, the Senate adopted a five-year, \$500 trillion farm bill that is approximately \$23 billion less than the 2008 Farm Bill. Nearly 70 percent of the bill's funding will go to nutrition programs, such as food stamps. The Senate's version consolidated 23 conservation programs into 13 and reduced conservation funding by 10 percent, to \$49 billion, and lawmakers preserved funding for cost-sharing programs designed to help farmers control the chemical runoff from fertilizer, manure or sediment, said Doug Siglin, federal affairs director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The foundation estimates that 44 percent of the pollutants in the bay come from agricultural runoff. Part of the conservation funds would be provide farmers who take steps to prevent runoff – such as installing fencing around streams used by livestock or planting cover crops to reduce erosion – with grants to cover 50 to 75 percent of the costs, Siglin said. Both the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Virginia Farm Bureau publicly supported the Senate's passage of the 2012 Farm Bill. Local farmers said they will be too busy working on Wednesday to pay much attention to the House's discussions of the bill, including conservation issues that many farmers consider "unrealistic."

LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE

From Early Bird Lynchburg may get visit from state and federal disaster teams Lynchburg may get a visit from a state and federal damage assessment team late this week. City Manager Kimball Payne said inspectors with FEMA and the state Department of Emergency Management may be here as early as Thursday. "That is still evolving right now," he said. The state's preliminary assessment — based on information submitted by the city — indicated Lynchburg met the federal threshold for public assistance, Payne said. Dozens of other localities also passed the initial review. "There was a pretty broad impact across the Commonwealth," Payne said. To date, the city identified 145 privately owned buildings with storm damage, and it tentatively estimates the city's storm response will cost in excess of \$1 million. Of the damaged structures inventoried so far, nearly 27 percent were homes in the Fort Hill and Perrymont areas.

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

From Early Bird Health of Chesapeake improving partially because of local efforts The James River Green Building Council welcomed Ann B. Jurczyk, the Virginia outreach and advocacy manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to Charlottesville on Tuesday to speak about pollution reduction in the Chesapeake Bay. Jurczyk

described ways to help the area meet its goals to improve the health of the bay under what is known as Phase 2 of the Watershed Implementation Plan. In December 2010, the EPA established a “pollution diet” for the Chesapeake Bay. Each state was assigned a Total Maximum Daily Load of pollutants that can be released into the bay. In accordance with WIP Phase 2, localities within the bay watershed have submitted their plans for achieving pollution reductions. This will be done through reducing sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous runoff in local streams and rivers. “Collectively I think we’ve all got an opportunity to share in some of the [pollution] reductions,” Jurczyk said. “If we can clean up locally, eventually the bay will take care of itself but we have to start here, with what goes on in our backyard.” Both the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle County have submitted their input for the WIP. Both localities will create an inventory of current best management practices and increase BMP installations. Charlottesville will also conduct stormwater retention retrofits on school and city property and educate the public on the importance of reducing pet waste, among other things. The difference between WIP Phase 2 and plans of the past is that it establishes attainment checkpoints every two years. This will allow localities to track their pollution levels and make adjustments as needed. The state of Virginia is on target to meet its next check in. Jurczyk’s presentation coincided with Gov. Bob McDonnell’s Friday news release praising Virginia’s efforts in cleaning up the bay. McDonnell congratulated wastewater treatment facilities for reducing the amount of nitrogen they release by more than 2,000 percent. He also acknowledged that in 2011 the EPA recognized Virginia as the mid-Atlantic state with the greatest reduction of bacteria and phosphorus released into rivers and streams. Jurczyk also commended these achievements, partly attributing their success to funding that has allowed farmers and wastewater treatment facilities to install BMPs like facility upgrades and fences to separate livestock from waterways. “Wastewater treatment and agriculture have done a good job,” Jurczyk said. “Where we are having a hard time keeping up with pollutants, where we were going backward, is stormwater.” Jurczyk partially credited the increase in stormwater runoff to Virginia’s increasing population. “As we have an increasing number of people coming into the watershed our individual footprints are adding up and that’s why that number is going backwards,” Jurczyk said.

From Early Bird Water authority celebrates completed upgrades and environmental dividends The facility treats wastewater for all of the city of Charlottesville and for Albemarle County’s urban areas, including Crozet. The event marked the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority’s completion of the first major improvement there since the mid 1980s. “Today we’re celebrating the completion of the \$48 million Capital Improvement Project that lives and breathes our environmental policy of cleaner rivers, a cleaner Chesapeake Bay and a smaller carbon footprint,” said RWSA chairman Mike Gaffney at the beginning of the ribbon cutting ceremony. The project brought improvements to almost all of the existing facilities, including modernizing aeration systems to improve the wastewater processing efficiency, as well as adding covers to existing structures to minimize the plant’s odor. In addition to the refurbishments, the plant received several new structures and increased the plant’s peak flow capabilities to almost 38 million gallons a day. The additions and refurbishments will have an overall positive impact on the environment, and will assist in improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Key among the goals is the reduction of phosphorous and nitrogen, which contribute to algal blooms and can be disastrous to wildlife. “A lot of times you hear that we have failed on the Chesapeake Bay cleanup,” said David Paylor, director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. “We have already accomplished 60 percent of the nitrogen removal that is our goal and 70 percent of the phosphorous. We’ve made a lot of progress; we’ve got some more to do.” Although Paylor was optimistic about the work completed, he warned against complacency in the face of success. “The challenge is ... that last little bit is the part that is the most expensive, sometimes, and most challenging,” he said, referring to the improvements that could still be done. “The trick is not to rest on our laurels, but to continue to move on these agricultural areas and urban storm water areas to find cost-effective ways to get where we need to be by 2025.” The plant will even generate some of its own electricity. Generators that utilize the methane biogas and recovered heat waste will be used to make it partially self-sufficient.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

From Early Bird Corps to complete oyster reef in Elizabeth River NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is ready to unveil an oyster reef in the Elizabeth River in front of Fort Norfolk. The reef is set

for completion on Thursday morning. The project began last year and included placement of rocks and substrate and more than 150 bushels of donated shells. It's an effort to restore the oyster population and improve the health of the Elizabeth River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Dominion begins operations at new Va power plant RICHMOND, Va. — Dominion Virginia Power has started commercial operations at its Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center in Wise County as part of its blueprint to meet growing energy demands and comply with changes to environmental regulations. The Richmond, Va., energy provider said Wednesday that the 585-megawatt power station in St. Paul was placed in commercial operation late Tuesday after four years of construction that employed nearly 2,400 workers at its peak. The \$1.8 billion power station uses coal, waste coal and biomass to produce enough to power 146,000 homes at peak demand....The state's largest utility, which has about 2.3 million customers, said the station is among the cleanest U.S. coal-fired power stations in terms of air emissions that it is able to reach through clean-coal technology and emission controls. But various groups, which opposed the project and worked to get stricter environmental permits, argue that the plant's emissions will contribute to climate change and pollution. They also fear more environmentally damaging strip mining in the region.

CHARLOTTESVILLE NEWSPLEX

Residents Speak out Against Adding Chloramine to Water Supply

At the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors meeting Wednesday, several outraged residents spoke out against the RWSA's decision to replace traditional Chlorine with Chloramine in the water supply in order to meet new EPA standards.

Several people voiced safety concerns over combining Chlorine and Ammonia in the water and said if the RWSA doesn't pull the plug on the project, they will be forced to take some drastic measures.

"We would have to either consider a whole house filter which would cost \$10,000 or we would have to consider moving to a non-chloraminated area," said Lorrie Delehanty, Charlottesville resident.

The Board of Supervisors, City Council, RWSA, and Albemarle County Water Authority will hold a joint public hearing on July 25 to discuss the issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW YORK TIMES

From Early Bird Blog: Do Natural Paths from Deep Shale to Shallow Rock Pose Gas Drilling Risk? On the Green blog, Rachel Nuwer nicely summarizes the findings of a new Duke University study finding signs that natural geological pathways link deep briny fluids thousands of feet beneath the surface in Pennsylvania gas country with some shallow zones tapped for drinking water. The study should ease* concerns that reports of briny water mixing with drinking water have anything to do with gas drilling, including the process of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, used to release gas from deep shale layers. The areas where water samples drawn from near-surface layers had traces of the natural contaminants from the deep shale layers showed no relationship to past or current gas drilling activity, the researchers reported. But the authors propose that the presence of pathways linking the deep gas-bearing layer called the Marcellus Shale and near-surface aquifers could pose a drilling risk, although that notion has been challenged by other geologists. The mix of uncertain science and its relevance to energy debates, not surprisingly, has resulted in media coverage ranging from responsible to inflammatory, with the worst headline I've seen coming from the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: "Duke study suggests drilling fluid can seep up into water supplies." Abraham Lustgarten of ProPublica led with the researchers' hypothesis that these natural

conduits for deep fluids might add to drilling risks, but he noted the authors' concession that it was unclear whether the natural mixing of deep and shallow fluids occurred over many millennia or a few years. Christopher Joyce's report for NPR notes how the study provides fodder for everyone in the fracking fight, raising — as is the case with much science — more questions than it answers.

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

From Early Bird Official Says Implementation Questions Remain if Cross-State Rule Upheld EPA's top air official says that even if a federal appeals court upholds the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, questions will remain about how to implement a program that did not go into effect Jan. 1 as planned. The court is expected to rule soon on the legality of the rule, which requires 28 states to reduce power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide. "We feel pretty confident that rule will be upheld," says Gina McCarthy, assistant EPA administrator for air and radiation.

From Early Bird Industry Report Questions EPA Approach in Study of Fracking EPA should narrow the focus and increase the rigor of its study on the potential threats hydraulic fracturing may pose to drinking water, according to a critique done for two oil and gas industry associations. The Battelle Memorial Institute report says the agency is overreaching in the scope of its study by including a variety of exploration and production activities not specific to fracking. The report also urges greater collaboration with stakeholders

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Early Bird Wis. Supreme Court to rule in case pitting large farm against town worried about water quality MILWAUKEE — The Wisconsin Supreme Court is scheduled to rule Wednesday in a case in which a small town with three times as many cows as people is seeking greater authority to protect its water supply. Communities throughout the rural Midwest have been keeping an eye on the lawsuit as they struggle to deal with the expansion of so-called factory farms. States throughout the farm belt have seen big farms get bigger as the agriculture industry continues to consolidate. The Wisconsin lawsuit was filed by Magnolia, a town of 1,000 residents seeking to force a big livestock farm to meet tougher water quality standards than the state requires. Similar cases have been filed in six other Midwestern states, but this is believed to be the first to reach a state supreme court. The lawsuit revolves around a 2004 state law establishing standards that local governments must follow when they grant permits for new and expanding livestock operations. The intent was to make farm regulations consistent across the state.

Global warming tied to risk of weather extremes NEW YORK — Last year brought a record heat wave to Texas, massive floods in Bangkok and an unusually warm November in England. How much has global warming boosted the chances of events like that? Quite a lot in Texas and England, but apparently not at all in Bangkok, say new analyses released Tuesday. Scientists can't blame any single weather event on global warming, but they can assess how climate change has altered the odds of such events happening, Tom Peterson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told reporters in a briefing. He's an editor of a report that includes the analyses published by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

BLOOMBERG NEWS

From Early Bird Study: Pa. fracking can put water at risk A study that found hydraulic fracturing for natural gas puts drinking-water supplies in Pennsylvania at risk of contamination may renew a long-running debate between industry and activists. The report by researchers at Duke University, published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said a chemical analysis of 426 shallow groundwater samples found matches with brine found in rock more than one mile deep, suggesting paths that would let gas or water flow up after drilling. While the flows weren't linked to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the study found natural routes for seepage into wells or streams. "The industry has always claimed that this is a separation zone, and there is no way fluids could flow" from the shale to the aquifers, Avner Vengosh, a professor at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and one of the study's eight authors, said. "We see evidence of hydrologic connectivity." Gas

drilling by fracking is booming in the Marcellus gas field, mainly in Pennsylvania, with permits issued for more than 11,000 wells mostly in the northeastern counties, such as Bradford and Susquehanna, studied by the scientists. The drilling has been an economic boon for the state and helped drive down natural gas prices nationwide to decade lows. It has also raised fears among citizens and environmental groups about water contamination from the chemical mixture used to break apart the shale or from gas leaking into water wells. The town of Dimock, where some residents say water turned toxic after gas-drilling nearby, is in Susquehanna County. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tested water in Dimock, and found none with unsafe levels of contaminants. “We have not seen any evidence that hydraulic fracturing has contaminated groundwater in Pennsylvania,” said Kevin Sunday, a spokesman for Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection. In fracking, water, sand and chemicals are injected into deep shale formations to crack the rock and free trapped gas. The Marcellus formation, stretching from New York to Tennessee, may hold enough gas to supply the U.S. for three years. Gas is likely to leak up from the shale formation first, before water or drilling fluids, Vengosh said. The study found that the minerals in shallow wells flowed there naturally, over time, and didn’t find a connection between gas drilling and water contamination. Industry representatives said that was the most important finding. “The good news is that the researchers make it crystal clear that the phenomena they observed had nothing to do with shale development,” said Chris Tucker, a spokesman for the industry-backed group Energy In Depth in Washington.

EPA Official Says Implementation Questions To Remain Even if Cross-State Rule Upheld The Environmental Protection Agency’s top air official said July 10 that, even if a federal appeals court upholds the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, questions will remain about how to implement the program that never went into effect on the planned start date. Observers are expecting the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to issue a ruling any day now on the legality of the cross-state rule, which requires 28 states to reduce power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide that cross state lines (*EME Homer City Generation L.P. v. EPA*, D.C. Cir., No. 11-1302, *oral arguments* 4/13/12; 72 DER A-14, 4/16/12).

OMB WATCH

Fracking Disclosure Policies Fail to Protect Public Health and Safety State oversight laws requiring disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing (commonly referred to as fracking) are in need of an overhaul. A new OMB Watch report, *The Right to Know, the Responsibility to Protect: State Actions Are Inadequate to Ensure Effective Disclosure of the Chemicals Used in Natural Gas Fracking*, examines state chemical disclosure rules and aims to empower the public. It also encourages state and local authorities to improve their chemical disclosure standards, especially in those regions of the country most involved in and affected by natural gas fracking.... In most cases, the Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate the injection of fluids underground and limit pollution levels in drinking water. However, the 2005 Energy Policy Act stripped the EPA of its authority to monitor fracking, making it the only industry to benefit from such an exemption. With the absence of federal regulation and as citizen pressure for new protections and greater oversight mounts, more state governments are establishing rules requiring disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking and better monitoring of their potential impacts on local water supplies and public health. Unfortunately, none of the current state efforts sufficiently addresses all of the key elements needed for effective oversight.

FUELFIX

Cornell researcher rebuts colleagues on fracking leaks Replacing coal with natural gas cuts the creation of greenhouse gases that cause global warming, a Cornell University researcher has concluded, rebutting the findings of colleagues at the university. Lawrence M. Cathles, a professor in the department of earth and atmospheric sciences, released a paper that says even if high rates of natural gas are leaking out after hydraulic fracturing and during transport, gas will still provide a net benefit over time. “The only thing that really counts is the amount of carbon dioxide you put in the atmosphere,” Cathles said in an interview today. Because gas releases less carbon dioxide than coal or oil when combusted, “the story is quite clear that we would be very well advised to substitute natural gas.” The impact of natural gas on climate change has attracted attention as the spurt in production from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has pushed down prices and prompted power producers to shift from coal to gas.

Utilities generated as much power from natural gas as coal in April, the first time natural gas equaled coal generation since the government started keeping those records, in 1973, the Energy Information Agency said July 6. Cathles' Cornell colleagues Robert Howarth and Anthony Ingraffea published an article last year that said leaks of methane from fracking, in which water, chemicals and sand are pumped into the ground to break apart rock and free gas, mean the use of natural gas could actually cause more global warming than coal. **More Potent** The differences between the researchers hinge on two points: